cover the cattle wealth, in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has drawn any time frame for the introduction of the above scheme;

(c) whether the Government has framed a comprehensive crop insurance policy and the policy for the sheep and goats, fish and poultry in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, the cattle insurance is already in progress in the country separately from the crop insurance. Cattle insurance was introduced in 1974 and covers cattle, sheep, goat, pigs, horses, mules, donkeys, yaks, camels and poultry, etc. While crop insurance scheme is in operation from 1-4-1985.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Cattle insurance is being implemented by the General Insurance Corporation of India through its subsidiary companies. Sheep, goats and poultry are included in the programme. The cattle insurance is under implementation throughout the country and efforts are on to increase the coverage.

Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme is an area based and credit linked scheme. It is voluntary in nature and the States are free to opt in favour of this scheme. The scheme covers wheat, paddy, millets, oilseeds and pulses. Under the scheme sum insured is equal to the crop loan disbursed subject to the maximum of Rs. 10,000 per farmer. Premium payable is 2% on wheat, paddy and millets and 1% on oilseeds and pulses of the sum insured.

Lock Out in the Sandal Agricultural Farm in Kerala

2303. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees of the Sandal Agricultural Farm in Aralam in Kerala State, under Central Government are on strike and the Farm has been closed down;

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof and what are the demands of the employees and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had a dialogue with the striking employees, if so, what are the details in this regard, and if not, when Government propose to call a meeting with the representatives of the striking employees in order to lift the lock-out; and

(d) whether there is any plan to close down the Farm permanently, if not, what action Government contemplates to put the Farm on rails again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the Farm has not been closed down so far by State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI).

(b) The workers of Central State Farm of State Farm Corporation of India (SFCI), a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of this Ministry, at Aralam, Cannanore, Kerala, proceeded on strike w.e.f. 19-4-1993 in support of fulfilment of the following main demands:

(i) Uniform pay-scales of labours working in Central State Farm, Aralam.

(ii) Appointment of casual workers as permanent workers.

(iii) Appointment of Head Workers as Group 'D' employees.

(iv) To develop the Central State Farm as an Agricultural University.

(c) The State Labour Commissioners's office (Government of Kerala) has been pursuing the matter in several rounds of discussions with representatives of Employees Union and the Management of the SFCI.

(d) There is no proposal to close the Aralam Farm of SFCI. The SFCI has been included under the World Bank aided National Seeds Project Phase-III (N.S.P. III), under which an action plan for increasing the efficiency of SFCI Farms has been drawn up and is being implemented.